

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 11, 18, 22, and 23.

Please add new claim 28.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling loss of drilling fluid in a borehole comprising;  
mixing pelletized coconut coir with the drilling fluid to form a drilling fluid mixture.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the drilling fluid mixture comprises of at least one type of lost circulation materials other than the coconut coir.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one type of lost circulation material comprises a fibrous material.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the fibrous material comprises at least one of group consisting of as cotton fibers, cottonseed hulls, rice hulls, shredded automobile tires, wood fibers, sawdust, and paper pulp.
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one type of lost circulation material comprises a flaky material.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the flaky material comprises at least one of the group consisting of mica, shredded cellophane, wood chips, and plastic laminate.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one type of lost circulation material comprises granular material.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the granular material comprises at least one of the group consisting of ground nutshells, perlite, ground carbonate, sand and pea gravel.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one type of lost circulation material comprises a slurry.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the slurry comprises at least one of the group consisting of hydraulic cement, oil-bentonite-mud mixes, and high filter loss drilling fluids.
11. (Canceled) The method according to claim 1 wherein the method comprises adding pelletized coconut coir to the drilling fluid.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises using pellets of coconut coir ~~sufficiently soft to be~~ formed so as to be reduced into smaller

~~coconut coir~~ particles after introduction into the drilling fluid ~~before introduction into the~~  
borehole.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises using coconut coir pellets which have been compacted to minimize swelling of the coconut coir prior to release into the borehole.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coconut coir is between 1 and 28 percent of the drilling fluid mixture by volume.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the coconut coir is between 1.4 and 14 percent of the drilling fluid mixture.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the borehole comprises an oil or gas well borehole.

17. (Currently Amended) A mixture for lubricating a drilling implement consisting essentially of  
~~comprising:~~

a drilling fluid; and

coconut coir mixed with the drilling fluid.

18. (Canceled) The mixture of claim 17, wherein the mixture further comprises at least one type of lost circulation material other than coconut coir.

19. (Currently Amended) The mixture of claim 17 ~~18~~, wherein the mixture comprises at least one of the group consisting of fibrous materials, flaky materials, granular materials, and slurries.

20. (Previously Presented) The mixture of claim 17, wherein the coconut coir comprises between about 0.5 percent ~~28~~ percent of the mixture by weight.

21. (Previously Presented) The mixture of claim 20, wherein the coconut coir comprises between about 1.4 and 14 percent by weight of the mixture.

22. (Canceled) A lost circulation material for use in preventing loss of drilling fluid in a borehole comprising coconut coir.

23. (Canceled) The lost circulation material according to claim 22, wherein the coconut coir comprises short fibers, flakes, granular pieces, and powder of coconut husk.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The lost circulation material according to claim 22,~~ A lost circulation material for use in preventing loss of drilling fluid in a borehole comprising coconut coir wherein the coconut coir is formed into pellets.

25. (Previously Presented) The lost circulation material according to claim 24, wherein the pellets are configured to be reduced to particles of coconut coir as they are being injected into the borehole.

26. (Currently Amended) The lost circulation material according to claim 24, wherein the pellets are compacted sufficiently such that they are not substantially reduced into particles of coconut coir before injection into the borehole.

27. (Previously Presented) The lost circulation material according to claim 26, wherein the pellets are compacted so that they slowly absorb fluid and swell.

28. (New) The lost circulation material according to claim 24, wherein the coconut coir comprises short fibers, flakes, granular pieces, and powder of coconut husk.